U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

DATE June 9 2003

SUBJECT Pollution Report for the Sealmore Corporation Site, Muskegon, Muskegon County Michigan

FROM Jeff Kimble, OSC, U S EPA, RS1, Grosse Ile, MI

TO

R Worley, U S EPA, OSWER, Washington, DC	(worley ray @epa gov)
R Karl, Chief, U S EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL	(karl richard @epa gov)
J El-Zein, Chief, U S EPA,ERB RS1, Grosse Ile, MI	(el-zein jason @epa gov)
W Messenger, Chief, U S EPA, ERB/ESS, Chicago, IL	(messenger william @epa gov)
S Prout, U S EPA, ORC, Chicago, IL	(prout susan@epa gov)
B Ryczek, U S EPA, ESS, Chicago, IL	(ryszek william @epa gov)
M Hans, U S EPA, OPA, Media Affairs, Chicago, IL	(hans mick @epa gov)
S Hill, U S. EPA, OPA, Community Involvement, Chicago, IL	(hill stuart@epa gov)
G Narsete, U S EPA, ERB, Public Affairs, Chicago, IL	(narsete virginia @epa gov)
Duty Officer, NRC, Washington, DC	(fldr-NRC @comdt useg mil)
A Marouf, U.S EPA, H&S, Chicago, IL	(marouf afif @epa gov)
J Maritote, U S EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL	(maritote john@epa gov)
T Johnson, U S EPA, ERB/RS1, Grosse Ile, MI	(johnson tracy @epa gov)
N Seif, MDEQ, Lansing, MI	(seifn@state mi us)
T Obrien, State Project Manager, MDEQ, Wyoming, MI	(obrient1 @michigan gov)

POLREP 1 (Initial) - Emergency Response Removal Action

Start Date June 5 2003

II. BACKGROUND

Site No	Pending
Delivery Order Number	Pending
Response Authority	CERCLA
CERCLIS ID Number	Pending
NPL Status	Not on NPL
MDEQ Notification	June 2, 2003
Latitude Longitude	43°14 673' N, 86 14 382' W
Start Date	June 5, 2003
Completion Date	To be determined

III. SITE INFORMATION

A Incident Category

CERCLA - emergency response

B Site Description

1 Site Background

A Site Location

The Sealmore Corporation (Sealmore) Site is located at 423 Ottawa Street in Muskegon, Muskegon County Michigan The site is in a mixed commercial and manufacturing area with two residential properties located across the street from the abandoned facility to the east Less than a half a mile to the west is Lake Muskegon and a recreational area A railroad line boarders the site about 100 feet to the west as well Two empty storage trailers, two steel tanks in poor condition and several dumpsters containing debris are located outside the building to the south The site consists of a one-room processing building with an attached office along the east wall of the building and a driveway on the south side of the building

B Site Description

The Sealmore Site was formally a metal finishing electro-plating facility Activities conducted at the site included zinc and aluminum chromating vacuum pressure resin impregnation of castings, and venetian blind cleaning The plating operations consisted of three different types of processing lines and included a zinc chromating line, an aluminum chromating line and a resin impregnation line (castings process line) Wastewater from these lines were historically discharged to a sanitary drain

2 Description of Threat

On February 10 2003, the City of Muskegon condemned the facility due to its deteriorating and unsafe condition The City of Muskegon subsequently boarded up the building due to vandals attempting to access the building On April 23, 2003 the City of Muskegon notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) of the abandoned facility RRD conducted a site inspection on April 28, 2003 and noted buldging brick and visible staining on the eastern exterior wall The roof was also collapsed in several areas allowing rain water to enter and pool on the floor and collect in the vats and in an open floor pit Several deteriorating containers that were leaking, open process tanks, and open floor pits were identified Containers observed during the inspection included (10) 55-gallon drums located outside of the building, (15) 55-gallon drums located inside the building, (16) open process tanks located inside the building (5) 55-gallon cardboard containers containing a white powder material (9) 5-gallon containers located inside the building and (4) open floor pits located inside the building

The site was referred to the MDEQ Office of Criminal Investigation on April 29, 2003 based on RRD s observations during the site assessment On June 2 2003, RRD requested the assistance of U S EPA to mitigate the imminent health safety and environmental threats at the site due to the potential for access to the inside of the dilapidated building and because of recent vandalism activities

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A Current Situation

On April 28, 2003, representatives of RRD conducted an inspection of the facility and found that access to the potentially hazardous substances within the facility was unrestricted On June 2 2003, RRD requested U S EPA assistance to determine if the site posed an imminent threat to human health and the environment In response to this request, on June 5 2003, U S EPA and the

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor mobilized to the site to conduct emergency response site assessment activities These activities confirmed the presence of abandoned hazardous wastes inside and outside of the facility Specifically access to the deteriorating and unsafe building was unrestricted the facility building s roof was partially collapsed Due to the characteristics of the materials in the floor pits leaking containers and processing vats U S EPA determined that the site posed an imminent threat to human health and the environment As a result on June 5 2003 U S EPA initiated an emergency response action and mobilized the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor to stabilize the hazardous materials and secure the site until transportation and disposal activities were scheduled

B Actions Taken

- On June 5 2003 U S EPA and START mobilized to the Sealmore site and met with RRD An initial walk-through of the facility was conducted using level B personal protection equipment The building was dilapidated and overhead hazards were evident due to the collapsed roofing in several areas of the building It appeared that rain significantly damaged areas underneath the leaking roof A green staining was observed near the garage entrance indicating potential past off-site migration of wastes Contaminated material migrating from the facility could end up in storm drains that empty into Lake Muskegon Lake Muskegon is directly connected via a channel to Lake Michigan Containers and drums were leaking with visible pooling and staining and there were several open floor pits and processing vats Labels on several containers revealed the following information hydrofluoric chromic nitric and sulfuric acid Unl Kleen 49D Aluminum Brightener 18 Iridite 80 and various caustic cleaning solutions One of the open drums near an area of collapsed roof was a partially full and open drum labeled as a mix of hydroflouric and sulfuric acid Several pH readings were collected from the drummed materials on site and the values of the readings ranged from 1 to 14 standard units

  Six samples were collected from drum and vat liquids and hazardous categorization (hazcat) field tests on each of the samples was performed The following table presents the hazcat results

Sample	pH	Chromium (mg/L)	Oxidizer (positive or negative)	Sample Description
1	1	50	NA	Yellow liquid
2	14	NA	NA	Clear liquid
3	NA	NA	Positive	Black liquid
4	1	0	NA	Orange liquid
5	7	50	NA	Yellow liquid
6	0	0	NA	Brown yellow liquid

Based on the above field hazcat results START collected 4 samples and submitted them to a local laboratory for hexavalent-chromium Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) metal and pH analysis MDEQ collected a split of each sample for off-site laboratory analysis U S EPA also contacted the ERRS rapid response contractor to initiate an emergency removal action

- On June 6, 2003, site set up and removal work was initiated A total of 42 miscellaneous sized drums and containers, and 16 processing vats were inventoried A search of the entire facility was conducted to identify additional small containers Containers of unknown waste material located on the exterior grounds of the facility were moved to and secured inside the building Sampling from each container and vat was completed Hazcat of the collected samples was initiated Gross removal of spilled materials and waste debris on the floors was initiated Site security during non-working hours was initiated Site security will continue to be present during non-working hours until the hazardous substances and wastes are transported off-site for disposal

- On June 7, 2003 floor debris and material removal continued The collected material was placed in 55-gallon drum liners and staged in the building Hazcat of samples and waste stream determination was completed The following waste streams were identified for the site chromic acid liquids, chromic acid solids, acid liquids acid solids caustic liquids caustic solids neutral liquids neutral solids (including floor material) flammable liquids and hydrofluoric acid

- On June 8, 2003, ERRS completed gross decontamination of the floor material and debris A 4,000 gallon poly-tank and a 25-yard hazardous waste roll-off box were delivered to site The collected floor debris waste was placed into the roll-off box Segregation and labeling of containers by appropriate waste streams was also completed All empty containers were cut and placed into the roll off box

C Next Steps

- Bulk and secure all on-site wastes and prepare the waste containers for off-site shipment and disposal
- Procure laboratory for waste stream analysis and submit representative composite samples for disposal analysis
- Procure a waste transportation provider and waste disposal facility
- Decontaminate the facility floors and structure and collect decontamination water for disposal
- Provide 24-hour security for off-site time needed to procure disposal
- Ship waste to a disposal facility

D Key Issues

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is the current property owner due to tax reversion of the property for non-payment of back taxes

V. COST INFORMATION

Estimated site costs as of June 2003	Dollars Spent	% Ceiling Remaining
ERRS	$ 10,500	79%
START	$ 5,640	96%
U S EPA	$ 4,900	NA
Total	$ 21,040	

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES - PENDING**

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Containment	Treatment	Disposal

Chromic Acid Liquid	Liquid		Drums		
Acid Liquid	Liquid		Drums		
Acid Solid	Solid		Drums		
Hydroflouric Acid	Liquid	100 gallons	Drums		
Caustic Liquid	Liquid		Drums		
Caustic Solid	Solid		Drums		
Neutral Liquids	Liquid		4,000- Gallon Baker Tank		
Chromic Acid Solids	Solid		Drums		
Neutral Solids and Floor Material	Solid		25-yard Haz-Roll Off Box		
Flammable Liquids	Liquid		Drums		